

For immediate release
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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.4 MILLION IN GRANTS

The Placer County Air Pollution Control District awarded more than \$1.4 million in clean-air grants recently to projects that will reduce local air pollution by more than 5 tons per year.

The district's board of directors awarded the grants April 13 to 19 projects submitted by governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The projects will receive a total of \$1,456,382. The district estimates the grants will reduce emissions of ozone precursors and particulate matter by almost 65 tons over the lives of the projects.

In most cases, the district board awarded grants to projects that are cost-effective when costs are compared with how many tons of pollutants they will eliminate. Many of the projects propose replacing old automobiles, school buses and trucks with new, lower-emission vehicles, or retrofitting old vehicles so they emit fewer pollutants.

The district's board awarded:

- \$31,000 to the town of Loomis for a new low-emission dump truck that will replace an old truck;
- \$14,000 to the city of Auburn to partially fund the purchase of 2006 hybrid vehicles that will be used by police staff;
- \$25,000 to the city of Auburn so it can put a new lower-emission engine in a truck used to pave city streets;
- \$250,000 to Mid-Placer Schools to partially fund two new buses that will replace old high-emission buses;
- \$76,000 to the county Facility Services Department for photovoltaic cells that will be installed on the roof of a county building at the DeWitt Center in north Auburn;
- \$100,000 to the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency to promote the use of public transit through an educational and outreach campaign;
- \$62,000 to Columbia Properties to partially fund two new engines for a yacht that takes tourists around Lake Tahoe;
- \$72,021 to the California Department of Transportation for retrofitting four heavy-duty vehicles in order to reduce vehicle emissions;
- \$30,000 to Bob Jeffries Trucking to partially fund the purchase of a new lower-emission heavy-duty truck that will replace an old truck;
- \$10,000 to Breathe California for an educational program that will teach high school students to assess air pollution at their campuses and develop strategies for improving air quality;
- \$200,000 to Newcastle Elementary School to partially fund a traffic-circulation project that will significantly lower emissions from school buses and other vehicles by reducing traffic congestion at the school;
- \$45,000 to the California Conservation Corps for a wood chipper that will be used to chip tree limbs and other vegetation, thereby reducing the need for outdoor burning;
- \$25,000 to the city of Lincoln to help pay for retrofitting two refuse trucks in order to reduce vehicle emissions;

- \$100,000 to the county Public Works Department to help pay for a CNG fuel pump that will be used by Placer Transit's fleet of buses powered by compressed natural gas;
- \$50,000 to the Public Works Department to partially fund expansion of the Placer Commuter Express bus service that serves the Interstate 80 corridor from Colfax to downtown Sacramento;
- \$182,000 to the Placer Hills Union School District to partially fund two new school buses that will replace old higher-emission models;
- \$42,000 to the Placer County Fair Association for a LPG street sweeper that will replace gasoline-powered blowers used to maintain the county fairgrounds;
- \$127,361 to the Roseville Joint Union High School District to fund the purchase of a new lower-emission school bus to replace an old bus; and
- \$15,000 to the Roseville Joint Union High School District to retrofit a school bus in order to reduce vehicle emissions.

In all, it received 27 applications seeking more than \$3.5 million.

Funding for the grants includes more than \$1.1 million from a small surcharge the district levies on motor vehicles registered in Placer County; \$200,000 that land development projects have paid into the district's Air Quality Mitigation Fund; and \$100,000 contributed by Union Pacific Railroad Co. under a memorandum of understanding with the district.

The railroad and district are working together to achieve a one-ton reduction in toxic particulate-matter emissions in Roseville over three years.

The district administers the Clean Air Grant Program on an annual basis.

For the 2007 grant cycle, applications will be accepted from January through March and the board will again make its decisions in April.

The board will determine the amount of funding available for 2007 through the district's 2006-07 budget. Board members will review a proposed budget in June and adopt a final budget in August.

For more information, call the district at 530-745-2330 or visit its Web site

(<http://www.placer.ca.gov/apcd>).

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